



State Public Policy Group

# **Ask the Experts: Advice and How-Tos from OST Literacy Coaches**

Beyond School Hours Conference

February 2015

## Who We Are

- ***Michelle Rich***, Senior Program Manager, State Public Policy Group (OST Initiative Coordinator)
- ***Angela Cardamon***, OST Enrichment Coach
- ***Kate McCormick***, OST Enrichment Coach

# This Workshop

- Target Participation: Administrators/Program Directors, Supervisors, Experienced Program Staff
- What you'll learn:
  - About the Central Iowa OST Initiative
  - What the research says about reading and learning in OST
  - Strategies you can use back home!
  - Lessons learned on the ground.

# About the Central Iowa OST Initiative

*To build and sustain the organizational and staff capacity of Central Iowa OST programs to provide high quality learning activities before school, after school and over the summer.*



The UWCI OST Initiative supports OST programs that support children and youth who are a critical part of thriving communities.

# The OST Initiative by the Numbers

- **1** coordinating team (SPPG)
- **1** wiki site: <http://ostinitiative.wikispaces.com>
- **2** literacy coaches: Angela Cardamon and Kate McCormick
- **12** programs /over **20** sites in Central Iowa
- **21** OST frontline leaders
- **64%** of programs assessed as “progressing” in quality activities category
- **99** organizations and individuals in Central Iowa OST Network/convened **4x** a year

# What the Research Says

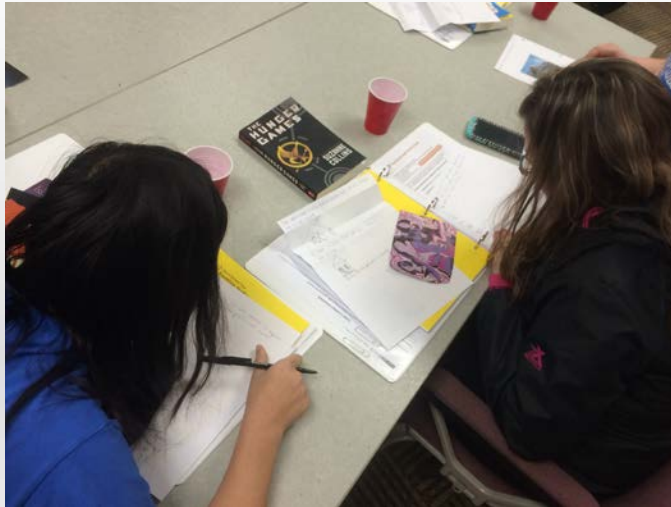


# Elements of Successful OST Literacy

- Engagement and Relevance
- Read Alouds are Important for all Ages
- Fun with Meaning
- Opportunities for Successes
- Role Modeling
- Vocabulary and Comprehension



# Balanced Learning Approach in Practice







# Coaching Framework

Not Evident → Minimal → Progressing → Satisfactory

- **Improve quality of activities.** Activities are planned, include literacy, engaging, scheduled, and frequent.
- **Improve quality of resources** to support activities, including, but not limited to technology, books, curricula, materials. The quality of resources is defined by quantity, appropriateness, and categorical diversity.
- **Improve staff competency to provide high quality activities.** Staff are motivated to learn, self-directed, create and sustain a learning environment, maintain positive relationships, and provide high quality activities regularly.
- **Improve stakeholder collaborations to support quality programming.** Stakeholders may include, but are not limited to parents, peer organizations through the OST Network, schools, and partners and other service providers.
- **Improve use of participant data** to inform quality activities and evaluate impact.

## Lessons Learned (So Far)

- **Systemic and cultural factors** can be huge barriers, but necessary to break down or work around
- Put in the effort to **work closely with frontline staff**, and figure out a way to do this!
- Coaches should be committed to **building relationships** and this means having longer-term perspective

# Q&A with the Coaches

# Materials Available Online

Check out our wiki site!

<http://ostinitiative.wikispaces.com>